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Board of Health Minutes 09/07/2011

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2011
Ground Floor Conference Room
Arlington Senior Center
5:30pm

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Mr. Gregory Leonardos and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick (Chair)

Staff in Attendance: Christine M. Connolly, Director of Health and Human Services Natasha Waden and James Feeney, Health Compliance Officers.

Other: Consultant Rebecca Ryan Caruso, Biotech Consultant

The meeting minutes for June 22, 2011 and July 27, 2011 were accepted.

Presentation: Biotech Regulations: This presentation was moved to agenda item VI.

Presentation: PCE at Arlington High School

Inspector Feeney provided the Board with a summary of the recent PCE findings at Arlington High School. Feeney explained that the findings revealed elevated concentrations of PCE inside certain areas of the building that were unoccupied spaces. One room was slated to be used however the School maintenance department took the recommendations of the State and Local Department of Public Health to reduce any concentrations inside the room prior to use. DEP agreed to re-test the room prior to occupancy. Feeney also stated that DEP would continue monitoring the concentrations inside the building as well as looking for possible sources of the contamination in the surrounding area.

Presentation: 2011-2012 Flu Clinic Plans

Director Connolly reported that the Mass Department of Public Health has cut back on the State supplied flu vaccine. Connolly reported that state supplied vaccine can only be used for children 6months to 18 years of age or for uninsured individuals.

However, since Arlington purchases vaccine from a private company, the BOH office will continue to hold public clinics for seniors and the general population. Connolly highlighted that a flu clinic for Arlington Seniors would be held at the Senior Center building on Town Day September 17, 2011. Lastly, Connolly reported that this office would participate with the Council on Aging to run a shingles vaccination clinic for Arlington Seniors on November 16, 2011.

Restaurant Updates:

Inspector Waden reported that two new food establishments: The Madrona Tree located at 315 Broadway and The Wing Place of Arlington located at 218 Mass Ave and one new retail food establishment, 7 Star Grocery located at 6 Medford Street have recently opened for business. In addition, the BOH office has received plan review applications for the following new food establishments interested in coming to town: Savory Plate, Angelina's Pastry, Nana's Mart, Golden Taste Chinese Restaurant, Subway and Loukoumaki.

Presentation: Biotech Regulations

Biotechnology consultant, Rebecca Ryan Caruso provided a power point presentation to the Board of Health and staff on the essentials of developing a biotechnology regulation for the Town of Arlington. Caruso started the presentation by providing an overview of rDNA including the Federal Regulations, safety considerations, and local ordinances. Caruso also presented an overview of how to create new rDNA regulations, what components should be included in a program and what questions should be considered prior to creating regulations. The Board had a lengthy discussion about the four different bio-safety levels and their requirements. At the end of the presentation, the Board agreed to move forward to develop Biotech regulations.

There was no public comment.

Meeting Adjourn at 7:25PM